

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please cancel sheets 1 and 2 of the formal patent drawings filed with the subject U.S. patent application and consisting of Figs. 1 and 2. Please replace those cancelled sheets with Replacement Sheets 1 and 2, also consisting of Figs. 1 and 2. Please also add New Sheet 3 consisting of Fig. 3.

REMARKS

Applicants, their principal representatives in Germany, and the undersigned have carefully reviewed the first Office Action of October 5, 2006 in the subject U.S. patent application, together with the prior art references cited and relied on in the rejections of the claims. In response, the title, drawings, Substitute Specification and claims of the application have been amended. It is believed that the claims now pending in the application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on by the Examiner. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

In the first Office Action of October 5, 2006 in the subject U.S. patent application, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show every feature recited in the claims. Specifically, it was asserted that the plurality of supports arranged side-by-side on the holder, as recited in claims 19 and 48, was not shown in the drawings.

In response, there is submitted herewith a New Sheet consisting of Fig. 3. This newly presented Fig. 3 is essentially a perspective view of Fig. 1 and showing several supports 11 and their associated rollers 17 secured to a holder 09 that is extending in

the axial direction of the cylinder 02. The Substitute Specification of the subject application, as filed, provides adequate support for this newly presented Fig. 3. The Examiner's attention is directed to paragraph 018 of the Substitute Specification in this regard. No new matter is being presented by the addition of new Fig. 3. The Substitute Specification has been amended at paragraph 010 to add a description of this new drawing figure, and at paragraphs 012 and 018 to refer to this newly added drawing figure.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as failing to include reference numbers and signs mentioned in the Substitute Specification. Specifically, face 22, face 23 and spacing distance "a", which are all recited in the Substitute Specification, were not shown in the drawings. In response both Figs. 1 and 2 have been cancelled and are being replaced with replacement Figs. 1 and 2 that both show the reference numbers and sign and their associated lead lines. The addition of these reference numbers and sign and their associated lead lines does not constitute any new matter. Paragraphs 012 and 015 both recite these reference numbers and sign in sufficient detail to allow them to be added to the drawings. It is thus believed that the two Replacement Sheets and the New Sheet submitted herewith overcome the

Examiner's objections to the drawings.

Claims 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28-32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 47 were all objected to as having various informalities. These claims have been reviewed and the Examiner's proposed corrections have been implemented. With respect to claims 46 and 47 the term "roll" has been cancelled. The Substitute Specification has been amended, at paragraph 013 to remove the term "roll". The rolling element 17 is preferably configured as a roller. The language of claims 46 and 47 now recites that structure.

Claims 19-48 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Schäfer et al., WO 03/047863 A2. The Examiner noted that the document corresponds to U.S. patent application publication 2005/0005793 A1. The Examiner further noted that applicants could not rely on the foreign priority papers to overcome the reference because a translation of the foreign priority papers had not been made of record.

In response there is being filed concurrently a verified English language translation of the German language text of DE 102 38 179.8, filed August 21, 2002. It is believed that the submission of this translation is sufficient to allow the applicants to rely on the August 21, 2002 German filing date as the effective filing date of the subject

U.S. patent application.

The Schäfer reference WO 03/047863 was published on June 12, 2003, almost a year after the German filing date of the priority application in the subject application.

The PCT application PCT/DE02/04364, which became the published application WO 03/047863, was filed on November 28, 2002, also subsequent to the German filing date of the subject application's priority application. That PCT filing did not result in the publication of the application in the English language. Accordingly, the earliest date of the Schäfer document as a reference is June 12, 2003. Schäfer is thus not available as a reference against the subject application. No further discussion of the rejection of the claims as being anticipated by the Schäfer reference is required.

Claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45 and 47 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 196 39 800 C1 to Becker. That document, which was cited and discussed in the prosecution of the PCT application of which the subject application is the U.S. national phase, does not appear to have an English language abstract or equivalent. It was cited as having a device for guiding a dressing 2 on a cylinder 1 and including a holder 18 spaced apart from the cylinder. A support, which was asserted as being an elastically bendable body and with first and

second ends, was recited as being connected to the holder through springs 22. At least one rolling element 12, 13 or 14 was recited as being supported on the second end of the support. An actuating means 23 was noted as being positioned between the support intermediate the first and second ends of the support. It is assumed that the actuating means was intended to have been recited as being located between the holder and the support.

In the prosecution of the PCT application, the above-identified Becker document was identified as D1 in the International Preliminary Examination Report, mailed on August 26, 2006, a translation of which has previously been submitted. It was noted in that IPER that the subject matter of claims 3 and 5, which correspond to application claims 21 and 23, differ from the D1 reference by the characteristic that the support in the subject claims is an elastically bendable body. The D1 reference was noted as not having such a structure. Instead, D1 was noted as using separate spring elements between the support and the holder.

Referring to the DE 196 39 800 document, and to the English language abstract which was filed with it, there is shown in Fig. 1 and 2 a plate cylinder 1 onto which is being mounted a printing plate 2. Rollers 12 and 14 are supported by a support,

generally at 15 which is generally overlying an L-shaped holder 18. Both of these elements appear to be made of metal with a substantial thickness. The two plate-engaging rollers 12 and 14 are carried at a lower portion 17 of the support 15. An inflatable element 23 is situated between the lower portion 17 of the support 15 and the holder 18. A plurality of springs 19 and 22 bias the lower portion 17 of the support 15 toward the holder 18 in opposition to a force which will be generated by the inflation of the inflatable element 23.

The support 17 is not an elastically bendable body, as that term is used in the subject application, and as would be understood by one of skill in the art. The support 15 is also not connected to the holder 18, except through the several discrete springs 19 and 22. Thus, the device shown in DE 196 39 800 does not anticipate independent claim 21 or any of the claims which depend from it.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite that the first end of the support is rigidly connected to the holder. Support for this language can be found at paragraph 012 of the Substitute Specification. Claim 21 has also been amended to recite that the support, which is an elastically bendable body, has an inherent spring-back property. Support for this language is found at paragraph 008 of the Substitute Specification.

That paragraph also recites that the device of the subject invention does not require a separate spring element to return the support to its initial position after operation of the actuating device. It is thus believed that claim 21, as filed, and even more clearly as amended is not anticipated by the DE 196 39 800 reference. That prior document also does not render the subject invention, as recited in claim 21, obvious to one of skill in the art.

The various claims which were rejected with independent claim 21, all depend from claim 21. Since claim 21 is believed to be allowable, all of those claims are also believed to be allowable.

During the review and revision of the Substitute Specification, several minor typographical errors were noted. These have been corrected by the submission of several of the replacement paragraphs. These various minor changes and corrections do not constitute any new matter. The title of the application has been changed to utilize more appropriate terminology.

The prior art made of record and not relied on in the rejections of the claims has been noted. Since it was not applied against the claims, no discussion thereof is believed to be required.

SUMMARY

The title, drawings, Substitute Specification and claims of the subject application have been amended. It is believed that the changes made to the title, drawings and Substitute Specification do not constitute any new matter. The claims now pending in the application are believed to be patentable over the prior art cited and relied on. Allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

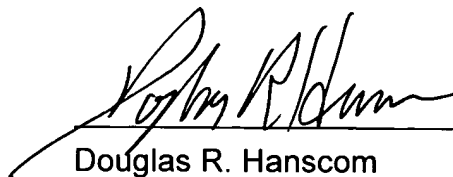
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